Anomalies in sex ratio

†1361. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ratio of females is falling rapidly in several States of the country, especially in Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have issued strict instructions after the National Commission on Women drew its attention towards this fall but in spite of sex determination tests are being done undeterred in several States of the country; and

(c) if so, whether Government will enforce the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 more stringently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) It is a fact that the ratio of number of females per thousand male is falling in different States in the country especially in the states of Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Over all, the sex ratio of the country has however, improved 933 as per census 2001 as compared to 927 in 1991.

(b) and (c) The government has been issuing instructions from time to time to the States and Union Territories to strictly implement the Preconception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and the Supreme Court Directions in this regard. The act prohibits determination & disclose of the sex of the foetus. The Appropriate Authorities inspect the clinics regularly to see that there are no violations of the provisions of the Act. Besides, a National Inspection and Monitoring Committee including representative from National Commission for Women, Department of Women and Child Development and NGOs also take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem states.

As per received from the States and UTs 26839 bodies using ultrasound, image scanners etc. have been registered under the Act. As on 31.7.2005, there are 312 ongoing cases in the Courts/Police and 33

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ultrasound machines are sealed and seized for violation of the provisions of the Act.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behaviour and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practices of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars have also been organized through Voluntary Organisations at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. A 'Save the Girl Child' Campaign with a view to lesion son preference by highlighting achievements of young girl has been launched. At the same time, sensitization of the Medical Community and Training of Judiciary for better implementation of the Act is being done. National Surveillance Cell is being constituted to assist the Appropriate Authorities of problem states such as Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi in identifying the wrongdoers and in apprehending them.

Applications pending for starting private medical colleges in Karnataka

1362. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from private managements for starting medical colleges in Karnataka, pending with Government;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that MCI has recommended for giving approval to some private managements to start medical colleges in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) which are the medical colleges of private managements awaiting clearance from Government; and

(e) whether Government would take steps to accord permission during 2005-06?